

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING
ROOM 113
THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 2006
8:30 A.M.**

Commissioners Present: Deb Schorr, Chair
Bob Workman, Vice Chair
Larry Hudkins
Bernie Heier
Ray Stevens

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Trish Owen, Chief Deputy County Clerk
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

The Chair opened the meeting at 8:31 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM

1 APPROVAL OF STAFF MEETING MINUTES OF TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2006

MOTION: Stevens moved and Heier seconded approval of the Staff Meeting minutes dated August 1, 2006. Stevens, Workman, Heier and Schorr voted aye. Hudkins was absent from voting. Motion carried.

Hudkins arrived at 8:23 a.m.

2 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

A. Report on Capital Expenditures at Lancaster Manor

MOTION: Stevens moved and Heier seconded approval of the addition to the agenda. Workman, Hudkins, Heier, Stevens and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried.

3 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - Richard Baier, Nebraska Department of Economic Development Director; Mike Lang, Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development (LPED) Director of Business Retention and Expansion; Darl Naumann, Administrative Assistant to the Mayor for Economic Development; Troy Gagner, Economic Development Coordinator

General discussion of economic development and business retention and expansion issues took place.

Workman asked how other counties raise funds for economic development and how are those funds spent.

Richard Baier, Nebraska Department of Economic Development Director, said it would typically be in terms of the operating budget for an organization like the Chamber of Commerce or the Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development (LPED). It could also be a City/County function. He said 39 communities have a local option sales tax for economic development. Some allow the funds to be used for projects outside the city limits. Baier said a survey of economic development groups was recently completed and said he will share the results with the Board.

Heier asked whether the Board should look at trying to purchase land in the County for future industrial/commercial development.

Baier said if the Board decides to go that route, it should make sure it fits with the long-term plan for the region.

Hudkins asked whether there is a per capita benchmark.

Baier said he will gather information for the Board to look at.

Stevens asked for advice on how to coordinate all of the entities involved with economic development.

Baier suggested that there be a single point of contact and said it would be preferable to have it be someone other than a public employee.

Brief discussion took place regarding the local labor market.

Baier reported that the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce and LPED are supporting partners of the "Dream It. Do It." Careers Campaign (a national campaign to promote careers in manufacturing).

Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer, said Troy Gagner's position is one of the positions that it proposed for elimination in the City's budget. The County has contracted with the City of Lincoln, Urban Development Department for Gagner to administer the County's Economic Development Loan Fund.

MOTION: Workman moved to send a letter to the City indicating the County Board's concern regarding proposed elimination of the Economic Development Coordinator position and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) compliance.

The Chair said she believes testimony at the City's budget hearing on Monday would be beneficial. She indicated that she will be out of town and suggested that the Vice Chair provide testimony.

Workman withdrew his motion.

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Heier seconded to: 1) Authorize the Vice Chair to testify at the City's budget hearing on Monday, August 7, 2006; and 2) Send a letter to the Mayor and City Council expressing the County Board's support of economic development and the desire to retain the Economic Development Coordinator position within Urban Development. Heier, Workman, Stevens, Hudkins and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried.

4 LINCOLN PARTNERSHIP FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (LPED) -
Dick Campbell, Lincoln Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors
President; Wendy Birdsall, Lincoln Convention & Visitors Bureau President;
Jason Smith, Lincoln Chamber of Commerce, Vice President of Economic
Development

Wendy Birdsall, Lincoln Convention & Visitors Bureau President, gave an overview of Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development (LPED), Creating and Responding to Opportunities for Growth (Exhibit A). She noted that LPED had hired Angelou Economics to prepare a comprehensive economic development assessment for Lincoln and said it recommended the LPED business development activities be focused on five target industries:

- 1) Biotechnology
- 2) Value-Added Agriculture
- 3) Specialty Electronics
- 4) Customer Support Systems
- 5) Logistics/Distribution/Warehousing

Birdsall said the assessment also recommended that:

- ▶ LPED be established as the lead contact and clearinghouse for economic development information and initiatives in Lincoln and Lancaster County
- ▶ Creation of a new brand and marketing strategy for Lincoln
- ▶ Clear focus on retention and expansion of existing businesses
- ▶ Establishment of a Geographic Information System (GIS) based Internet database of buildings and sites
- ▶ Cultivate entrepreneurial development
- ▶ Establish closer links with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL)

Birdsall said LPED is currently receiving \$255,000 from the City of Lincoln, \$10,000 from Lancaster County and \$500,000 from the private community. She said, in comparison with peer cities, LPED is grossly underfunded which impacts advertising, personnel and the ability to provide incentives to businesses that are interested in locating in Lincoln.

Dick Campbell, Lincoln Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors President, said the private sector will be asked to increase its contribution and said a public sector commitment to economic development will be an important tool in that effort. He said the Mayor is very committed and has expressed a willingness to earmark \$250,000 in land acquisition funds. There are indications that the City Council may look more favorably on a cash commitment. This would be in addition to the City's current contribution of \$255,000. Campbell asked the Board to consider increasing its contribution to \$250,000. In return, Lancaster County would be made a full partner in LPED.

Workman said City taxpayers would be taxed twice through property tax and said he prefers that funding be through added sales tax.

Campbell said it could take several years to get that authority.

Schorr said it is late in the budget year to be asking for funds. She suggested that the Board phase funding and take \$100,000 to \$125,000 out of the Keno Fund this year, acknowledging that it may lessen the commitment to the East Beltway, Rural to Urban Transportation System (RUTS) Program and paving of Arbor Road east of North 70th Street to provide access to a proposed motocross track at the Abbott Sports Complex.

Stevens suggested that the Board reclassify the \$217,000 aside for paving of Arbor Road as funding of economic development and decide over the next several months the best use of those funds.

Workman expressed concern that motocross track project won't go forward if the Board withdraws its commitment.

Hudkins said he would be willing to go from \$10,000 to \$25,000 and to push for a county-wide sales tax that would only be applied to economic development.

Dave Kroeker, Budget and Fiscal Officer, appeared and said the Board has funded LPED out of the Economic Development Fund in the past, but it is unclear whether it can continue to do so. He said the Board could make the increase to \$25,000 contingent upon the ability to take it out of the Economic Development Fund.

Schorr said she would be willing to re-look at the Keno Fund as a possible funding source at mid-year.

Campbell asked whether there is additional information that the Board would like LPED to provide.

Workman said he would like additional information regarding economic development funding in Omaha, Nebraska; Topeka, Kansas; and Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Stevens requested LPED's financial statements for the last fiscal year.

The Chair exited the meeting at 10:17 a.m. and the Vice Chair assumed direction of the meeting. Hudkins also exited the meeting at 10:17 a.m.

5 PENDING LITIGATION - Mike Thew, Chief Deputy County Attorney

MOTION: Stevens moved and Heier seconded to enter Executive Session at 10:21 a.m. for discussion of pending litigation. Workman, Stevens and Heier voted aye. Hudkins and Schorr were absent from voting. Motion carried.

Hudkins returned to the meeting.

MOTION: Stevens moved and Heier seconded to exit Executive Session at 10:44 a.m. Hudkins, Heier, Stevens and Workman voted aye. Motion carried.

6 PROPOSED INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI FOR CATASTROPHIC SHELTERING SERVICES - Doug Ahlberg, Emergency Management Director

Doug Ahlberg, Emergency Management Director, gave an overview of the agreement.

The Board scheduled the item on the Tuesday, August 8, 2006 County Board of Commissioners Meeting agenda.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

A. Report on Capital Expenditures at Lancaster Manor

Larry Van Hunnik, Lancaster Manor Administrator, appeared and reported on bids for a canopy, air conditioner compressor and door alarms for Station No. 5 (Exhibit B). He recommended that the County accept a bid from NIFCO Mechanical Systems for the canopy in the amount of \$6,310.00; a bid from Johnson Controls, Inc. for a rebuilt air compressor in the amount of \$7,425.15; and a bid from Senior Technologies for a coded door exit system in the amount of \$7,004.49.

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Heier second to approve the expenditures out of the Renewal and Replacement Fund. Hudkins, Heier, Stevens and Workman voted aye. Schorr was absent from voting. Motion carried.

7 ACTION ITEMS

- A. Microcomputer Request C#2006-276, \$650.07 from Youth Services Center Budget for Two (2) Microsoft Office 2003STD Licenses (Exhibit C)
- B. Microcomputer Request C#2006-278, \$997.60 from the Drug Forfeiture Fund for Four (4) Palm Tungsten E2 Handheld PDA's

MOTION: Heier moved and Stevens seconded approval of Items 7A and 7B. Stevens, Hudkins, Heier and Workman voted aye. Schorr was absent from voting. Motion carried.

8 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

- A. Letter to Unincorporated Villages Regarding Address Changes (See Agenda Packet)

The following changes were requested: 1) Delete *The purpose of this letter is to inform you* from the first sentence; and 2) Insert the word *of* after the word *needs* in the final sentence.

- B. Correspondence from Mayor Seng Regarding Road Tax Levy (See Agenda Packet)

The Board discussed the letter and asked the Vice Chair and Commissioner Heier to relay that they are not in agreement when they meet with the Mayor later in the day.

- C. City-County Common Meeting Date (October 2, 2006 or October 3, 2006)

Eagan reported a request from the Planning Department to change the date of the meeting.

Board consensus was to change the meeting date to Tuesday, October 3, 2006.

- D. Update on Motocross Track at Abbott Sports Complex

Eagan said there has been progress and said Del Lienemann, Jr, President of the Lincoln Sports Foundation which owns the Abbott Sports Complex, has indicated a willingness to sign the cooperative agreement.

- E. Meeting with State Senator DiAnna Schimek

Eagan said the meeting was held to prepare for a legislative review hearing on Transfer of Development Rights (TDR).

- F. Finalize Date for One and Six Year Road and Bridge Improvement Program Public Hearing

Board consensus was to hold the public hearing on Thursday, November 16, 2006 at 7 p.m.

9 DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS

- A. Lancaster Manor Advisory Committee - Heier

Heier said pandemic flu was discussed.

- B. Officials Committee - Schorr, Workman

Workman said Monty Fredrickson, Deputy Director of the Nebraska Department of Roads, discussed the issue of the Lancaster County Agricultural Society's advertising of off-premise activities (commercial products) on its electronic sign. The advertising is a violation of federal and state law and the Nebraska Department of Roads' rules and regulations for controlling outdoor advertising and jeopardizes federal funding for road projects. Fredrickson said one option would be to remove 84th Street from the National Highway System and replace it with the future East Beltway. He recommended keeping that option available for the future.

Hudkins said commercial advertising was removed from the sign and remains off. He said this resulted in a loss of revenue and suggested that request for commercial zoning and a stop light on 84th Street and Havelock Avenue be renewed.

C. Lincoln-Lancaster County Ecological Advisory Committee (EAC) - Heier

Previously reported.

D. Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development (LPED) Meeting -
Workman

No report.

E. Chamber of Commerce City Council/County Board Coffee - Stevens

Stevens said budgets were the focus of discussion.

10 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Heier moved and Stevens seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 a.m. Stevens, Heier, Hudkins and Workman voted aye. Schorr was absent from voting. Motion carried.

Bruce Medcalf
Lancaster County Clerk